Employment opportunities for SCs/STs

3186. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to promote economic interest of SCs and STs in the field of sale, marketing, dealership/distribution and also transportation carry and forward of petroleum and natural gas products;

(b) whether any scheme has been chalked out by Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other steps proposed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to create employment opportunities for SCs/STs and encourage them to come to mainstream of national life?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) As per policy of Government, 25% dealerships/distributorships of Petroleum Products are reserved for SC/ST Categories. Financial Assistance to Seheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) Category; for setting up of dealerships/ distributorships will be available under the Corpus Fund Scheme. There is no reservation in Transportation of Natural Gas but in the case of bulk and packed transportation 15% for SCs and 7.5% for STs are reserved.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise, in view of answer at (b) above.

Oil trading and risk management desk of IOC

3187. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether IOC proposes to set up an oil trading and risk management desk abroad;